(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. India has out-stripped China & Russia in IT Race. The Global Information Technology Report 2005-06's "Networked Readiness Index" gives the degree of preparedness of a nation or readiness Index" gives the degree of preparedness of a nation or community to participate in and benefit from ICT developments.

India : Network Readiness Index 0.23 (40th rank)

China : Network Readiness Index 0.01 (50th rank)

Russia : Network Readiness Index 0.39 (72nd rank)

(b) India is ranked at 40th position out of 115 Member countries.

(c) Government has approved the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) covering its Vision, Approach, 27 Mission Mode Projects & 8 Support components to expedite implementation of e-Governance in the country. The NeGP also includes establishment of the following core infrastructure aimed at improving the Network Readiness Index:

(i) A Scheme for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (NWANs) for providing minimum data connectivity of 2 Mbps up to the block level, has been approved by the Government at total outlay of Rs. 3,334 crores with Central Assistance component of Rs. 2005 crores, over a period of 5 years.

(ii) Government has formulated a proposal for establishing 100,000+Information & Communication Technology (ICT) enabled Common Services Centres (CSCs) predominatly in the rural areas across the country. These CSCs would have the flexibility to offer a mix of services (both Government and non-government, including localized services) that may be needed by the local community.

Delhi Golf Club

*315. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have acquired the right to nominate eminent persons in various institutions like the Delhi Golf Club;

(b) if so, whether only eminent persons are to be nominated to Delhi Golf Club;

(c) the details of people nominated to Delhi Golf Club in the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 by Government;

(d) whether it is a fact that this scheme has hurt genuine people and those who are really qualified; and

(e) the proposal to revoke such nominations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) As per the existing lease deed signed with the Delhi Golf Ltd., the Ministry of Urban Development can nominate the following categories of persons for membership of the club upto the number mentioned against each:—

i. Officials on tenure posting with Government of India at the level of Direct and above and public servants who are golfers — 150

ii. "Out of turn" members for regular membership — 2

5 persons were nominated in the year 2003-04 from the "eminent persons" category. These monination have, however, been withdrawn since these were not according to lease terms.

In addition to the above, Chief Justice of Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble High Court of Delhi can nominate 10 members each from amongst the judges of the respective Courts. Further, 5 persons from amongst the learned Attorney General, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor General can be nominated by the Minister of Law & Justice.

(c) During the year 2003-04, 72 Government servants on tenure posting, 8 Members of Parliament and 5 eminent persons were nominated by the Ministry to the Delhi Golf Club Ltd. membership. In 2004-05, the nominations in these categories were numbered 71, 3 and nil respectively while in 2005-06, they numbered 32, 7 and nil respectively. In addition, Ministry has nominated two persons each for the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 as regular members on 'out of turn' basis.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Nominations are made as per the terms of the lease deed mentioned above.

Nominations made in 2003-04 in respect of the eminent persons category have already been withdrawn.